

COMMANDER'S NOTES

MARCH 9, 2006

As our Wing approaches the “busy season” again, I’d like to refocus our energies and efforts to meaningful activities. Certain functions are absolutely required:

- Command and Safety
- Finance (if there is money)
- Supply/Logistics (if there are tangible assets)

Certain positions are essential for completing our three missions – Aerospace Education and Emergency Services and, in a unit with cadets, someone to direct Cadet Programs. We need to concentrate on these activities and not divert our attention or dilute our efforts. I want to reverse the trend of “burning out” our people with onerous paperwork. I want our members enthusiastic about creating interesting activities for cadets and senior members.

On Saturday, April 22, 2006, the Northeast Kingdom Composite Squadron will celebrate its new headquarters with an open house at Caledonia County State Airport in Lyndonville. AOT officials have informed the Governor’s Office of this “great community event” as this will be an important public relations event for the entire Wing.

To make a full CAP day, NEK Squadron will provide NIMS (ICS) training and testing beginning at 8:00 a.m. A light lunch will be served. The Open House starts at 1:00 p.m. We will have all our aircraft there, and can do some O-flights for NEK cadets along with demonstrating the new C182, G1000 system and SDIS capabilities. Big Day!

Other on-going activities include the reorganization of the unit in Springfield. New Hampshire Wing has shown interest in running glider activities with us at Hartness State Airport. Major Davidson and I will meet with people who are interested in revitalizing the unit on Sunday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Major Davidson will be meeting with prospective members of a new Bennington unit on March 11, 2006. We are very hopeful of a start up this spring.

Upcoming events include:

- NER Cadet Program Training
- Survey Audit – April 24, 25, 26 – Green Mountain, Northeast Kingdom and Wing
- May 12, NER Strat Ops meeting – standardizing Ops in NER
- July 7-9, Wing Conference (need people to help at Castleton State College)
- July 14-23, Vermont Wing Encampment – Big Deal – Get cadets there

- August 18, Vermont National Guard 40th Anniversary (Thunderbirds) –
No more news yet
- August, National Boards in Reno
- October, Evaluation
- November, SAV

While these activities are happening, we will also be focused on training in our new C-182 G1000 aircraft. We will be increasing the number of members who are trained to do state-of-the-art digital imaging. We will be continuing to upgrade our communications system. And I want to make certain that we are continuing to support the Cadet Program. Vermont Wing's program has been very successful. Since our Spatz achievement last year, several others are advancing toward that milestone. Cadets are/will be attending National Cadet Activities and are reflecting very positively on their units and the Wing. We must continue with high standards and traditions of quality activities in addition to providing cadets an opportunity to serve their country and communities in SAR and humanitarian relief efforts.

I appreciate all that you do for CAP and invite your suggestions for other exciting, fun and meaningful activities. My e-mail address is changing to vtwgcc@verizon.net I'm almost always at headquarters on Thursdays. Call in or come by.

Please read the report from the National Boards.

For more details, attend the meeting on Saturday, March 11, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at Wing Headquarters.